

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 29, 1881, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. (Postmarked Boston, July 29, 1881) Friday. My dear Alec:

You poor boy, how sorry I am for you in your disappointment. I can imagine just how chagrined and mortified you must have felt when those horrid noises prevented you being sure what you heard.

Never mind, courage; from failure comes success, be worthy of your patient and don't lose heart even if all else are discouraged. I have not the least doubt but that you will eventually succeed. You have never yet failed and will not now. Only I wish I could be with you to help and try and cheer you, if it were not for the little ones I would come right down. I am only impatient to be with you again and am not the least disturbed about your success. All I dread is that the doctors may be discouraged or lose faith, still I think all will be well if you do not despair.

Only it was rather hard on me to raise my hopes so high and then to shatter them for the benefit of telegraph employees.

I had made all my plans for your coming home and the disappointment was very great. Mr. Johnston, to tepefy (?) my disgust, set fire to the unlucky dispatch and executed a war dance with it before extinguishing it in the basin. How very much excited you must have been to go into the President's bedroom and see him, Thank you very much indeed for telling me all about it and taking so much pains to draw the plan of the room. I almost feel as if I had been there too. I am so glad you admired the President so much. D on't 2 you think he will live? I wish you had seen Mrs. Garfield too, she must be so noble and womanly brave to keep up through everything as she has done. Oh dear, why couldn't

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I have been invisible to see everything too, but I don't know but that I prefer you should tell me about it. How can I keep my great secret. I'm afraid it will burn a hole through my pocket. Mayn't I tell Mamma, that surely won't do any harm, it will be weeks before she could tell. I am just dying to tell Lina that you have seen the President, nothing more at all. However Mr. Johnston doesn't even know I have heard and Lina only knows that I have had a private letter and she will not think it has anything to do with the President for I would not show her my telegram yesterday which I said was all about business. I went into town yesterday. Dr. Putnam said I might and Elsie had refused to let Annie touch one of her ears so I thought it would do no harm to let Dr. Blake see her. Well he was as nice as ever and said her ears could not be in a more healthy state, he did not believe she would ever have any trouble with them, it was only a child's fancy. And indeed she herself had declared her ear was all well and Mamma might touch it though Annie shouldn't. I was not very tired at all, but I wish we could go away for a while as Daisy has lost her appetite. It does little but rain here.

Dear love, goodbye and keep up your courage and do take care of yourself. I don't want you to be sick too. I'm afraid we neither of us would be the examples Mr. and Mrs. Garfield are!!

Lovingly—